

THE 2021 TIEMS WEBINAR SERIES: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Abstract – Practitioner talk.

Throughout 2021, The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) and Capacity Building International (CBI) hosted a series of webinar events focused on the international models used in emergency management. The aim of the series was to highlight, compare, and contrast various European/International/National domestic emergency management models. In starting the series, our fundamental understanding was that while the international models varied amongst nations, there would be core principles that would serve as a solid foundation and common feature amongst all nations. During the series, guests presented different national models, frameworks, approaches, and systems used in emergency management within their respective nation. Overall, the webinar series conducted 25 events over 12 months, reached over 1,750 people across nearly 70 nations. The series brought together both academic and practitioner levels, public and private sectors, as well as ongoing research and projects supporting overall national emergency and crisis response efforts. As a result of the webinar series, we have identified key takeaways for the larger international emergency management community.

Community of Practice: The interest in the webinar series showed there is a genuine interest in looking outside of our normal systems and see how other nations and program's function. Attendees asked numerous questions that were practical, insightful, and relevant. TIEMS could build upon existing membership and create a community of practice. The goal of which is to continue contribution to the international emergency management space, efforts, and sharing of ideas, concepts, research, and work.

Academic Program Support: TIEMS received a few requests during the series from academic institutions (universities) and training institutions about using the webinar series to support international program efforts. Due to the pandemic conditions and travel restrictions, students were not able to travel and complete education/training program international requirements. The webinar series served to help academic institutions meet educational program requirements. The key lesson here is that TIEMS programs have the potential to support academic programs and could build an academic partner network, or academic community with TIEMS.

Continued Virtual Engagements into 2022: Pandemic restrictions forced everyone to reconsider online engagements. Being an international society, TIEMS was adversely impacted in terms of hosting in person events and conference. While in person events were not feasible, the webinar series served as a way for TIEMS to promote community engagement, foster discussion, and exchange ideas. Moving into 2022 and regardless of travel restrictions and pandemic conditions, the webinar series can evolve to support overall TIEMS member engagement and information exchange. This can either be through the continue sharing of national models, or even thematic webinars on specific topics or projects.

Keywords: webinars, international crisis, emergency management, professional development.

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